

Brown County Health & Human Services

Public Health Division

Long Term Care Facility Visitation Resources

The safety and wellbeing of the residents and staff in long term care facilities continues to be a top priority in Brown County. The resources below include preventative measures that facilities can implement to reduce transmission of COVID-19, while also acknowledging the unintended consequences of social isolation from family and other loved ones.

Skilled nursing homes and assisted living facilities shall develop internal facility plans for visitation while incorporating current guidance from their regulating agency. Brown County Health & Human Services supports the guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and the Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) when making decisions regarding visitation.

Facilities need to determine whether they can safely provide visitations depending on facility outbreak status and county positivity rates by utilizing one of the links below:

- [WI DHS COVID-19 Disease Activity Level](#)
- <https://data.cms.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-Nursing-Home-Data/bkwz-xpvg>

Key Principles to Safer Visits

- Screen anyone who enters the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 or known exposure to someone with COVID-19
- Deny entry into facility for those with signs/symptoms or known exposure
- Provide education regarding current precautions being taken in the facility
- Emphasize and encourage the importance of:
 - Hand hygiene
 - Social distancing
 - Wearing face covering or mask
- Visitors who are unable or unwilling to adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention should not be permitted to visit or should be asked to leave
- Ensure adequate cleaning and disinfecting



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- Ensure staff use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Rapidly identify and properly respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases

Brown County Health & Human Services recognizes the very challenging work that is being accomplished within the Long-Term Care Community. The resources provided support shared efforts as we partner to prevent disease transmission in our community.

Resources

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services Assisted COVID-19 Guidance: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/assisted-living.htm>
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services Nursing Home COVID-19 Guidance: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/nursing-homes.htm>
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Guidance: [Nursing Home Visitation-COVID-19 \(cms.gov\)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality/nursing-home-visitations/covid-19)
- Division of Quality Assurance (DQA): Division of Quality Assurance (DQA)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>



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